

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An immunoassay for the human TNF Binding Protein TBP-II (residues 27-214 of SEQ ID NO:2) in body fluids, comprising measuring the interaction of TBP-II with an antibody to human TBP-II which specifically recognizes said protein.

2. A diagnostic assay for measuring the levels of antibodies to TBP-II endogenously produced in sera of patients in several disorders, comprising measuring the interaction of endogenous antibody with TBP-II.

3. A method for the purification of human TNF Binding Protein TBP-II (residues 27-214 of SEQ ID NO:2) utilizing a suitable antibody to human TBP-II which specifically recognizes said protein, comprising the following steps:

- a. coupling said antibody to a suitable resin to construct an immunoaffinity column;
- b. loading a solution containing said protein on said immunoaffinity column;
- c. washing away the non-bound proteins with a suitable washing buffer;
- d. eluting the bound TNF Binding Protein TBP-II with a suitable eluent; and

e. collecting the enriched fraction of said TBP-II.